

The 62 group of textile artists

AGM minutes

Sat 3 Dec 2021

Zoom

1 Attendance

Who was there:

Over 30 members attended

Who sent apologies:

Jane McKeating, Caron Penney, Daisy Collingridge, Caren Garfen, Gladys Paulus, Diana Springall, Lucy Brown, Fiona Rutherford, Marie-José Gustave, Helen Banzhaf, Jean Draper, Jan Miller

2 Minutes of the last meeting

Approved

3 Chair's report (Debbie Lyddon)

It's been a funny year again!

Seemingly quiet at the beginning, but with a lot going on behind the scenes whilst committee members met regularly on Zoom, and then incredibly busy in the latter part of the year with new members 2nd stage selection, BTB exhibition selection and Conversations selection. Next year, which will be the group's 60th year, will continue to be busy as we have two exhibitions: Conversations at the beginning of the year and the Knitting and Stitching shows in the autumn, as well as the normal cycle of new members selection, newsletters, and networking meetings.

The committee were hoping to commemorate the 62 Group's 60th anniversary next year with an exhibition and installation at the Fashion and Textile Museum, but this has had to be abandoned due to the pandemic as the gallery has had to prioritise postponed and re-scheduled exhibitions. So instead, we will be showing an exhibition of new work at the Knitting & Stitching shows and, alongside that will create an online video library of each 62 Group member. This will be a great resource for the group both to profile the work of members and to inform and instruct the wider community. More on that as 2022 progresses.

This AGM brings some changes to the committee. We will shortly be voting for a new treasurer and new members and education committee members, and I will be handing over the Chair's role to Catherine Dormor.

It has been a great 3 years as Chair, and I have enjoyed it very much. I started out feeling like a new, rather green, member and I have to say it was a steep learning curve coming to understand how the group was run and how you, as members, liked it to be run! My first bit of advice to Catherine would be to read

the constitution and learn it inside out. At the end of three years, I have learnt all about the workings of the group, but more important have been my interactions with you, the members. I have had personal contact with just about everyone in the group and I really value the conversations, however mundane, that I have had with you. If I didn't feel like a fully paid-up member of the group at the beginning, I do now.

Thinking over some of the things I have overseen, I realise some quite big changes have taken place in the past three years. We now have digital submission for exhibitions, which has made life easier for the selection committee and publicity and also, I hope for all of you. Also, the pandemic prompted me to start up the monthly online networking meetings which have proved to be popular and a good way for everyone to keep in contact, and especially for International members who previously had little personal interaction with other members. Finally, we are putting forward a proposal for an Associate Membership that the committee hope will open the group to a more diverse participation and encourage more people to apply. These are all things that I am proud to have been a part of.

Thank you to the whole committee for all their hard work and cheerfulness and to all of you for your support and encouragement. Finally, thank you Catherine for taking over.

4 Treasurers Report

Accounts presented and approved

Accounts 1/9/2020 to 31/8/2021

There was a surplus of £1,978.96 for the year. This increased the group's resources from £12,444.53 to £14,423.49:

Resources at 1/9/20	
NatWest balance	12,998.05
PayPal balance	58.33
Owed to overseas members	-611.85
	12,444.53
Income:	4,393.66
Expenses:	2,414.70
Surplus:	1,978.96
Surplus+Resources @1/9/20	14,423.49
Resources at 31/8/21	
Natwest balance	13,835.06
PayPal balance	1,114.28

Income breakdown:	
Membership	3,180.00
Hanging	16.41
Submission	350.00
Sales/comms	847.25
Funding	0.00
Misc income	0.00
Expenses breakdown:	
Exhibitions	200.00
Travel/accom	234.84
Meetings	300.00
Website/comms	1,107.29
SocMed/adverts	0.00
Misc expense	572.57

Owed to overseas members	-525.85
	14,423.49

The group was funded 100% from its own resources, including catalogue sales; no external funding was received.

The major expense was the website and the facilities for member communication, the latter being the Zoom and Curatorspace subscriptions. Miscellaneous expenses consisted mainly of postage for the catalogue sales, and refunds to members for amounts overpaid or paid twice. PayPal fees, recorded under this category, were £70.01 on receipts of £1,176.25, or 6% of the face value. After the accounting date a further subscription has been made to foster communications and beyond the member group, namely a US\$60 per month (approx. £45) subscription to MailChimp to enable newsletters to exceed 2,000 addressees. Annually that is over £500, and a quarter of this year's surplus.

5 Secretary's report

New email

From today onwards, Sally will be using a new email secretary@62group.co.uk. As she starts to use it, it may throw some back to me as your inboxes think it could be spam. She will be sending an email tomorrow to everyone with a link to the recording of this AGM, so please check your spam/junk folders if you get nothing. She will notify anybody where she gets a bounce back from their account via her old email to see if we can fix the issue.

Please notify Isobel and Sally of any changes to your email.

Please send any messages you want to share across the group or to other members to secretary@62group.co.uk and Sally will forward.

Going forward, Sally will also add to email headings whether the contents are for **INFO** or **ACTION**.

Zoom get togethers

Sally will be organising these moving forward and will be looking for a rotating lead for each meeting. If you're interested, please drop Sally an email on secretary@62group.co.uk She will continue to set up the zoom and send invites.

Members Newsletter

Sally will also be taking over co-ordinating and sending the Members Newsletter. Watch out for the next one in a couple of weeks.

6 Membership

There are currently 57 exhibiting members, 5 Honorary exhibiting members, 18 Honorary non-exhibiting members, and 11 Friends.

Two people have unfortunately lost their membership by the three-strike rule, having failed to submit or be selected for the last 4 exhibitions. A couple more members are reliant on passing the second selection of Conversations to retain their membership.

Isobel has been contacted by several members asking what their current status is, and how many exhibiting lives they have left. Isobel will make everyone aware at

the AGM that they will be contacted and notified if they are down to their last life after the second selection of Conversations.

Three members have resigned as exhibiting members and Hilary Bower has become a friend of the Group.

As always, please make sure everyone keeps all contact information up-to-date so that they receive newsletters and reminders about exhibition deadlines; also check that subs payments have been made, so that they don't risk losing their membership by default.

Following a discussion at the AGM around the categories of Honorary Non-Exhibiting Members and the Friends, Isobel will put together a document which better explains those categories: the reasons people may be invited to join, the advantages of membership, and also how those members may be encouraged to benefit the 62 Group and what communications they receive from the committee. If any members have any comments to add to this, please email Isobel.

7 New Members

After a long delay owing to the pandemic, three new members have now been selected to join the Group and we welcome Christina Hesford, Marie José Gustave and Claire Barber.

Noted that the committee had decided to go ahead with a New Members selection in 2022 – to open in Feb.

8 Exhibition Updates

British Textile Biennial:

- The exhibition ended last weekend
- Thank you to everyone who took part and helped promote the exhibition. We had a great response
- The showreel is a legacy of the work submitted and has also been well received

St Barbe/Conversations 2022:

- 14th January – 26th February 2022
- 24 artist / 33 works
- PV 13th January 2022 – 6 to 8 pm
- Work should arrive on the 11th
- A selection and install team still needs to be organised
- PV invite and flyer will be sent out soon - Please advertise

60th Anniversary year 2022:

- Richard will re-connect with Jo Hall in November about K&S space; she said she would be in touch
- Potentially looking for another venue as well, Morley Gallery in London. A new space which Richard thinks would be a great space and step up for the group. Richard is waiting to hear back.

- Catherine and Richard have visited the archive. I need to compile the info and send it to Jessica. It's a bigger job than we expected
- We are still hoping that Jessica will write a piece based on the information from the archive. We will use this text along with a timeline of the group logos. Richard will work with a graphic designer to design a poster/ leaflet launched at the anniversary show. Perhaps with an exhibition of items from the archive.
- Anniversary brief has been set and written by Debbie – Essence

The Brief:

Essence: the intrinsic nature or indispensable quality of something

62 Group members should submit work that conveys what it is that motivates and drives their practice - its 'essence'. This could be anything and could include concept, process, materials etc.

Members can respond to the brief in any way they want, but the connection to the brief should be made clear in their statement.

Restrictions: With 65+ artists exhibiting, we need to restrict the size.

2-D work should be no bigger than 30 x 30 cm. 3-D work should be no bigger than 30 x 30 x 30 cm.

Sunny Bank Mills 2023:

- Met with Jane Kay about the potential exhibition at Sunny Bank Mills
- She wants to include it in a funding application for Leeds 2023
- Brief to group by March 2022, selection March 2023 with an exhibition from July to September
- I will be back in touch with Jane in January

62 Group at 62 2024:

- Richard was thinking about approaching the Fashion and Textile Museum again

Whilst Richard has enjoyed the exhibition role, he would like to step back. It would be beneficial if he had someone to assist with the 60th-anniversary show and then take over afterwards. This would allow for a smooth transition.

9 Education Update

St Barbes

Monday 17 January, 10-4, Hand stitch workshop with Jane Mckeating

Saturday 29 January, 10-4, Silk organza workshop with Emily Jo Gibbs

Saturday 5 February, 10-12am and 2-4pm, Drop-in workshop. Make a map textile workshop for families/young people with Vanessa Rolf

Tuesday 8 February, 10am-4pm, Common Ground Stitch Workshop with Vanessa Rolf

Textile Biennial October – November 2021 Whittaker Gallery

A very good response from members offering a range of online and in person talks and workshops. These were all sent to Jane Williams the Education officer for the Gallery who selected what she felt would work. There was some reluctance to commit to workshops as the gallery wanted to use more local artists who charged a smaller fee, but this may have been due to inexperience of a new team. A proposed 'In conversation' event was not accepted which is disappointing. 2 of the events had to be cancelled in the main due to very late advertising and difficult booking systems at the Gallery, which was a shame as members had responded so well to the early call out.

The workshops and talks that did take place were very well received and well attended.

Lynn Settrington's events to make elements of a community piece using donated fabrics have been very successful in involving local groups and the wider community. The result was a very successful part of the exhibition.

Workshops

Vanessa Rolf -Making common Ground (online)

Jane Mckeating -Hand Stitched stories

Lynn Settrington -Kantha Quilts

Talks

Hannah Lamb (online) – Unravelling Archives

Films

The films were submitted, and we had 16 artist films. Richard put a lot of work into making these successful and Lucy Forester was employed to edit and compile into 1 showreel. The result was shown in a separate space which had large screens but was not well signposted by the gallery. In future it would be good to have the films alongside the work. However, they did receive a lot of views online and we got very good feedback.

We are awaiting quotes for holding a workshop for members who would like some help in gaining some expertise in making a short film.

Films could be a good way of having a useful education resource for the future.

10 Publicity

It's been a mixed year for publicity. On the one hand the uncertainties of Covid have meant the usual listings etc have been tricky due to cancelled events. On the other hand we have had some great opportunities to piggyback on the high profile British Textile Biennial. While we did experience some difficulties getting reciprocal coverage from BTB, it certainly helped that our exhibition at the Whitaker was part of something bigger.

Online listings were placed with the Crafts Council and Art Rabbit.

The main press coverage achieved was in Embroidery magazine, with a mention in a 'Preview' piece about the British Textile Biennial in the Sept/Oct issue (p.13)

accompanied by an images of work by Emily Jo Gibbs and Hazel Bruce. The exhibition was also mentioned in a review of the Biennial by Jo Hall in Nov/Dec issue (p.56):

"Textile works by 23 members of the 62 Group in 'Connected Cloth' make for a concise, well curated show at the Whitaker: Richard McVetis' installation A Portrait of Coal addresses complex narratives around coal as both driver of the industrial revolution and current climate change. Whilst Emily Jo Gibbs' Textile Worker - China is a subtle portrait of an anonymous factory worker."

The piece was accompanied by an installation shot of the exhibition at the Whitaker. Both issues also included the Connected Cloth exhibition on the listings page. Including an image of Sue Stone's work in the Nov/Dec issue.

We also achieved a write-up on the Hole & Corner blog as part of Rue Pigalle's tour of the British Textile Biennial. The blog discusses the work of Isobel Currie, Hannah Lamb, Emily Jo Gibbs, Richard McVetis and Sally Spinks, who gave an artists tour of the exhibition for Rue Pigalle's members.

<https://www.holeandcorner.com/craft-collaboration/british-textiles-biennial-a-tour-with-rue-pigalle>

Having a bank of (mainly) high quality imagery prepared in advance of the show is making it easier to promote our work to press. It is useful to have these as soon as possible to allow us to use for promotion.

Jo Hall (Embroidery editor) continues to be a great supporter of the group. Hannah wondered if we could try to develop stronger relationships with other media organisations by inviting them to events. We have discussed a mailing list for press and galleries and she thinks this is important in developing our professional profile.

The main source of publicity for our events is via our existing mailing list and crucially through members own followers/audiences (i.e. social media). The education events that were most successful seemed to be those heavily promoted by members themselves. The delay in the Whitaker putting the education events on their website and listings was a huge issue in us being able to promote them, and is something we should emphasise with galleries and venues in the future.

11 Social Media

Headline:

The Connected Cloth exhibition as well as the talk at the Fashion and Textile Museum has brought a lot of focus to the 62 Group and has contributed to a surge in followers and engagement.

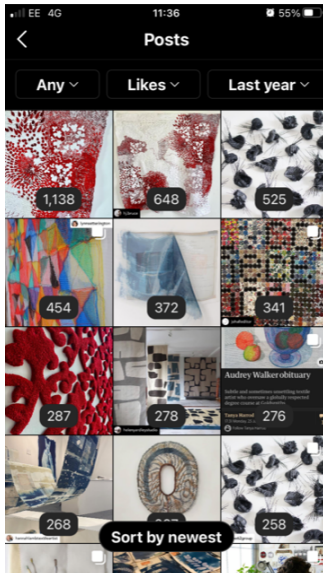
5,025 Followers [1,177 new followers since March 2021] In the last **90** Days:

We gained **476** more followers [compared to 4 Jun – 1 Sep] Accounts reached: **19.1k**

Accounts engaged: **1,882** [rise of 292%]

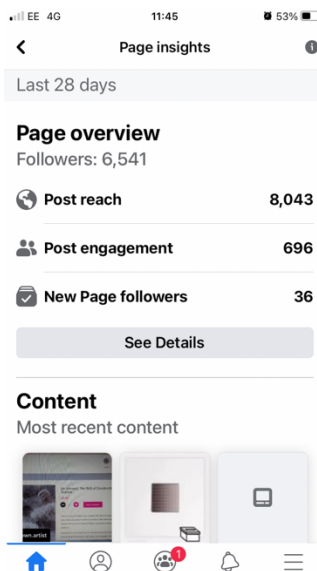
First and second prize for most post likes goes to Hazel Bruce and her work feature for the Connected Cloth exhibition as well as a repost about her work. In third place is the post relating to the talk at the Fashion & Textile Museum.

Instagram Profile visits were **2,162** [compares with 386 in March] Website taps came to **220** [compares with 24 in March]



Facebook Insights

Followers: 6541 [compares with 5853 in March 2021] Post Reach: 8,043 Post engagement" 696



Twitter

1,960 a gain of 58 new followers since March.

Please do keep tagging the 62group in posts and use hashtags which really help with engagement and saves Anna having to re-add them ☺

12 Website

62 Group Website Maintenance Some members may have noticed that in some browsers the homepage is loading quite a bit slower. Dave intends to address this issue in the new year. This work may take sometime but will not incur any financial cost to The Group.

Membership Site Logins When changing logins for the membership site, please ensure to choose a strong password. This will help to keep the site secure against attack.

The National Cyber Security Centre website has some good advice on the use of strong passwords and how to save them. Please email davidpitcher@me.com if anybody would like the link.

Artist Page Updates To help keep the artist pages on the website relevant, can all exhibiting members review all the content of their page, including their CV, at least once a year.

13 Newsletters

Noted that the public newsletter had been circulated by Emily on 1st Dec. Sally will be co-ordinating the production of the members newsletter to go out by 31st Dec.

14 Archives

Noted that professional photos, publicity material and minutes should be printed and sent to Louise Baldwin to go to the archives.

15 New committee members

4 new committee members appointed:
Treasurer – Christina Hesford – proposed by Sian Martin, seconded by Sally Spinks
New Members – Ealish Wilson – proposed by Jeanette Appleton, seconded by Jean Littlejohn
Education – Vanessa Rolf – proposed by Hannah Lamb, seconded by Sue Stone
Chair – Catherine Dormer – proposed by Emily Jo Gibbs, seconded by Shuna Rendel

16 Inclusivity & Diversity

A proposal regarding Associate Members had been sent to members prior to the AGM and discussion was opened up in the meeting. Following questions about how we will attract those we are seeking (more work will be done on this) and whether a single applicant might be too few, Debbie proposed that it might be 2 Associate Members in the first year.

A vote was taken and carried to proceed. A wording change to clarify "emerging" and add international and also consider an external panel member for selection. New objective will be added to the constitution to reflect this decision.

17 Honorary member proposal

Members voted to include Tilleke Schwarz to the Honorary Exhibiting Member group given her contribution to textile art. And Hilary Bower was also voted to the same category.

18 AOB

Catherine, on behalf of all members, gave a tribute to Debbie as the outgoing Chair. Debbie had kept us all together throughout lockdown and difficult times, had introduced new initiatives and worked really hard whilst remaining resolutely cheerful. A huge thanks was extended to Debbie from all members.

Proposal to ask Jo Hall to become a non-exhibiting honorary member.

**Date of next AGM
3 Dec 2022**